

Humboldt County School District

310 E. 4th STREET, WINNEMUCCA, NEVADA 89445-2831

TELEPHONE (775) 623-8100 FAX (775) 623-8102

DR. DAVID JENSEN
Superintendent

DAWN HAGNESS
Assistant Superintendent

December 14, 2015

Victoria Blakeney
Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment
State of Nevada Department of Education
700 E. Fifth Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Re: SB 515 – Social Worker of Other Licensed Mental Health Professional

Dear Ms. Blakeney,

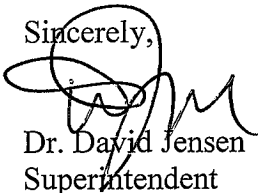
Please find attached the application for Humboldt County School District in response to the Social Worker or Other Licensed Mental Health Professional grant application made available through SB 515. The information attached includes the following documentation:

- 1) Section II Narrative for the two schools funds are being sought, and that have participated in the School Climate Survey; McDermitt Combined Schools and Winnemucca Junior High School.
- 2) Section III Budget/Expenditure Document reflecting proposed costs to support the grant submission.
- 3) Tentative job description for proposed Social Worker or Other Licensed Mental Health Professional (Appendix A)

Thank you for the opportunity to apply for these critically needed funds in support of our students.

As you review this information, should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Dr. David Jensen
Superintendent
Humboldt County School District

Section II Narrative

As individual school districts, student support systems have been developed and implemented through the provision of services through school nurses, school counselors and school psychologists. Despite these efforts, a more comprehensive approach is needed to provide supports for what has been identified as a growing need for intensive mental health services.

According to a recent study on mental health challenges in schools, one in five adolescents show significant symptoms of emotional distress, with almost 10% demonstrating symptoms that impair everyday functioning (Knopf, Park, & Mulye, 2008). In addition, studies indicate that nearly half of all diagnosed mental health conditions begin by the age of 14. Ultimately, the failure to properly identify and treatment mental health issues during adolescents increases the likelihood of significant health issues as adults limiting the ability of such individuals to become productive members of society (Wu et al., 2006).

Despite districts best efforts, without properly trained individuals that are able to immediately address and intervene, students will continue to struggle with developing mental health issues. Failure to provide a timely intervention lead to the presentation of issues, such as anxiety, depression, drug and alcohol use, sexual acting out behaviors and family difficulties. Consistent with the intent of SB 515, efforts are being put into place to allow for timely interventions and supports for students demonstrating mental health challenges.

In support of this initiative, Humboldt County School District is applying for funds to support the implementation of Social Worker or Other Licensed Mental Health Professionals in two strategic locations: McDermitt Combined Schools and Winnemucca Junior High School. Under this proposal, a comprehensive support system will be developed utilizing supports being developed through the SAMSHA grant, as well school level resources. Under this proposal, a multi-faceted approach will be developed to triage and refer students in need with urgency and immediacy.

This proposed approach supports the concept of a school-based mental health program in which a team of behavioral professionals from available agencies, both within and outside the district, are in place to address both individual student and family needs. This approach has demonstrated effectiveness as trained individuals are in position to quickly identify concerns and provide the level of service necessary based on the severity of the need.

In addition, supports for both proposed locations are in place through school wide participation in the PBIS program. Involvement by both schools demonstrates a broad based staff support for efforts to address and improve school climate and culture issues, both of which are critical in supporting and intervening with students demonstrating mental health challenges.

McDermitt Combined Schools

Population

McDermitt Combined Schools is a K-12 school located 75 miles north of Winnemucca, sitting on the Oregon border. The school is located adjacent to the Fort McDermitt Indian Reservation and is comprised of a primarily Native American population.

As of December 10th, 2015, McDermitt Combined Schools had an enrolled population of 137 students, with 74.5% identified as Native American, 14.6% Hispanic, 10.2% White, and .7% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander. In addition, 100% are identified as being Free and Reduced Lunch eligible and as a result, the school has been determined eligible for services under the Breakfast After the Bell program ensuring free breakfast and lunch service for all students.

McDermitt was also identified for Victory School status based on the overall socio-economic condition of the community and associated zip code. This status has provide strategic academic supports on behalf of the student population, and associated supports.

Needs

Recent Nevada School Performance Framework star ratings released in 2014 identified McDermitt Elementary as a 1 star school, while McDermitt Junior High was a 2 star school and McDermitt High School was identified as a 3 star school. Over academic performance has likely also been impacted by recent transitions in school leadership with the fourth principal in as many years.

Despite the classification as a 3 star high school, graduation rates are of significant concern. For 2014, graduation rates were identified as 66.6%, and for 2015, McDermitt had a 72% graduation rate. An analysis of the 11 identified seniors for the class of 2016, at the beginning of the school year, only one student had passed all HSPE requirements. As of December, a total of five have now met this criteria.

Being located 75 miles north of Winnemucca has created limited opportunities to access needed mental health services. Registered members of the Ft. McDermitt tribe have limited access to a Tribal Social Worker, however, based on the case load requirement, have limited access to immediate mental health assistance. As a result, many families simply try to address issues at home. As an example, on December 11, 2015, a McDermitt student living off the reservation expressed suicidal ideation to the bus driver while on the way home. Administration contacted parents and law enforcement, however, based on the inability to access immediate mental health assistance, it is unlikely that necessary help will be provided.

The stigma of seeking mental health assistance, in combination with a general lack of anonymity in the small community is also identified as a contributing factor in failing to obtain treatment. McDermitt has been identified as demonstrating higher rates of suicide and suicide attempts, while alcoholism and drug abuse are prevalent. Reports of sexual abuse and incest are common.

At the conclusion of the 2014-2015 school year, McDermitt High School was evaluated for accreditation purposes. As a component of that process, information was collected from parents in regards to their perception of Indicator 4.3 – *The school maintains facilities, services, and equipment to provide a safe, clean and healthy environment for all students and staff.* At that time, parents expressed significant concern regarding the safety of their children from bullying and violence. At the same time, parents expressed concerns with a lack of resources to support their child's physical, social and emotional needs on a daily basis at McDermitt Combined.

Staff expressed a similar concern in connection with indicator 4.6 – *The school provides support services to meet the physical, social and emotional needs of the student population being served.* In response to the concerns with student safety and overall mental health function, the staff agreed on becoming a PBIS school in an effort to provide consistency and support for all students in the absence of trained mental health professionals.

The concerns expressed by both parents and staff reflect the absence of a school counselor, who was out on a yearlong medical leave, and the absence of mental health services outside of emergency support and monthly contract services. This situation has been compounded by the counselor's resignation in August leading to the inability to fill the school counselor position for the 2015-2016 school year.

Proposed Use

It is proposed that McDermitt Combined Schools obtain 1 FTE position allowing for direct supports for the students throughout the K-12 setting. Upon hiring of the proposed position, the selected social worker or mental health professional will be utilized in five (5) general formats: Support Services, Services to Students, Services to Parents and Families, Support Services to School Personnel, and Liaison with District/County Resources.

Support Services will be provided through active participation in various services currently in place at McDermitt. This would include, as appropriate, services as a team member on a student's IEP in order to address and mental health concerns. In addition, the position will coordinate and provide counseling in group, individual and family situations. This will be supported through providing direct support in obtaining available community resources to support academic growth in the school setting. In addition, this position will provide direct supports in the development of positive behavioral intervention strategies consistent with the PBIS implementation.

Perhaps most impactful is the opportunity to provide direct services to students. This position will provide an opportunity to provide immediate crisis prevention and triage a situation. Based upon the intake data, the position will be instrumental in developing intervention strategies in support of academic success. In addition, supports can be provided to address social conflict resolution, anger management, social interaction development, and gaining a positive awareness of self and others.

Understanding that students only spend a relatively small portion of their time within the school environment, supports for parents and families is essential. Under the parameters of this position, direct supports addressing unhealthy family dynamics, and assisting parents in behavior management are a clear need. In addition, assistance in helping families obtain various resources available throughout the community will be of great impact.

As staff are often the front line in working with students dealing with mental health issues. With a mental health practitioner on site, staff will have access to timely and essential information to assist in better understanding various factors or influences impacting a student's well-being. In addition, appropriate staff in-service trainings focused on critical elements can be scheduled as a basis to providing direct services to staff to include behavior management.

Finally, this position will have the opportunity to interact with a variety of other mental health providers through local agencies and in collaboration with mental health specialists working throughout the district through the SAMSHA grant. In addition, and as noted, the value of having an immediate triage analysis conducted to ensure that students in crisis are provided essential services in support of enhanced academic success.

As noted, the primary target audience under this proposal is students within the K-12 environment, while provided secondary supports to families and staff. These services would be provided through direct contact targeting specific needs as they are identified.

Winnemucca Junior High School

Population

Winnemucca Junior High School is a centrally located school serving a 7th and 8th grade population. Current census data shows a total enrollment of 488 students. The population is comprised of students in the following demographic categories: White – 58%, Hispanic – 38.5%, and all other classifications 3.5%. The demonstrated Free and Reduced Lunch rate is identified as 33%.

The school setting serves all 7th and 8th graders in the Winnemucca area and acts as the primary feeder school for Lowry High School. WJHS has been identified as a 2 star school under the NSPF and has created process for identifying students demonstrating academic deficits. In an effort to assist struggling students, a program identified as Warrior Hall was implemented during the 2014-2015 and served 163 students, or 32% of the student population.

In addition, Winnemucca Junior High School hosts a Comprehensive Life Skills (CLS) Special Education program serving a student population generally assigned to the 5th through 8th grades. Students in this program present with multiple handicaps, profound learning disabilities and various mental health concerns.

Needs

In evaluating 2015-2016 data collected by the school counselor, a demonstrated need for increased mental health services is demonstrated. During the first half of the school year, a total of 200 students have been seen by the counselor for one or more issues/concerns. In addition, 40 students are scheduled for “regular” follow up visits.

A total of 33 individual parent meetings have been completed addressing a variety of topics in support of student academic and emotional health needs. In addition, a total of 13 out of district referrals and 5 DCFS reports have been submitted.

The prevalence of drug use, specifically marijuana and prescription medications, is on the increase. As a result of a number of arrests for drug possession and use on campus, the Winnemucca Junior High School has developed a partnership with the Winnemucca Police Department and will be providing training for staff, parents and students in an effort to mitigate the impacts of drug use.

Unfortunately, the school setting is often a representation of behaviors occurring within families and schools, requiring an increased level of support services to provide students support to address noted issues. This position will have the opportunity to play a pivotal role in supporting students in crisis.

Proposed Use

It is proposed that Winnemucca Junior High School obtain 1 FTE position allowing for direct supports for the students within a 7th and 8th grade setting. Upon hiring of the proposed position, the selected social worker or mental health professional will be utilized in five (5) general formats: Support Services, Services to Students, Services to Parents and Families, Support Services to School Personnel, and Liaison with District/County Resources.

Support Services will be provided through active participation in various services currently in place at WJHS as well as throughout the community. This would include, as appropriate, services as a team member on a student's IEP in order to address and mental health concerns. In addition, the position will coordinate and provide counseling in group, individual and family situations. This will be supported through providing direct support in obtaining available community resources to support academic growth in the school setting. In addition, this position will provide direct supports in the development of positive behavioral intervention strategies consistent with the PBIS implementation.

Perhaps most impactful is the opportunity to provide direct services to students. This position will provide an opportunity to provide immediate crisis prevention and triage a situation. Based upon the intake data, the position will be instrumental in developing intervention strategies in support of academic success. In addition, supports can be provided to address social conflict resolution, anger management, social interaction development, and gaining a positive awareness of self and others.

Understanding that students only spend a relatively small portion of their time within the school environment, supports for parents and families is essential. Under the parameters of this position, direct supports addressing unhealthy family dynamics, and assisting parents in behavior management are a clear need. In addition, assistance in helping families obtain various resources available throughout the community will be of great impact.

As staff are often the front line in working with students dealing with mental health issues. With a mental health practitioner on site, staff will have access to timely and essential information to assist in better understanding various factors or influences impacting a student's well-being. In addition, appropriate staff in-service trainings focused on critical elements can be scheduled as a basis to providing direct services to staff to include behavior management.

Finally, this position will have the opportunity to interact with a variety of other mental health providers through local agencies and in collaboration with mental health specialists working throughout the district through the SAMSHA grant. In addition, and as noted, the value of having an immediate triage analysis conducted to ensure that students in crisis are provided essential services in support of enhanced academic success.

As noted, the primary target audience under this proposal is students within the 7th and 8th grade environment, while providing secondary supports to families and staff. These services would be provided through direct contact targeting specific needs as they are identified.

References

Knopf, D., Park, M., & Mulye, T. (2008). *The Mental Health of Adolescents: A National Profile, 2008*. San Francisco, CA: National Adolescent Health Information Center, University of California, San Francisco.

Wu, P., Liu, X., et al. (2006). *Childhood depressive symptoms and early onset of alcohol use*. *Pediatrics*, 118(5). 1907-1915.

Section III Budget/Expenditure

Calculations for the grant application are under the assumption of half a year of implementation for the 2015-2016 school year. Given the approval process and posting requirements, it is the hope that positions could be in place so support successful school locations effective February 1, 2016.

Budget/Expenditure Summary documents are attached.

SECTION III: BUDGET/EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Social Worker and Other Licensed Mental Health Professional Grant

SCHOOL DISTRICT(S) Humboldt County School District

SCHOOL / GRANT NAME: SB 515, Section 23

FISCAL
YEAR

2015- 2016

CHECK ONE: BUDGET X

AMENDMENT

FINAL REPORT

OBJECT	DESCRIPTION	INSTRUCTION COST	SUPPORT SERVICES	TOTAL
100	Salaries			\$56,803.50
200	Benefits			\$24,963.62
300	Purchased Professional Services			
400	Purchased Property Services			
500	510 Student Transportation Services			
	580 Staff Travel		\$2,000.00	
	500 Other			
	Total 500			\$2,000.00
600	610 General Supplies (exclude 612)		\$1,000.00	
	612 Non Information Tech Items of Value *			
	620 Energy			
	630 Food			
	640 Books and Periodicals (Ex 641)			
	641 Textbooks			
	650 Supplies; Info Tech (Ex 651 , 652, 653)			
	651 Software			
	652 Information Tech Items of Value *		\$2,000.00	
	653 Web-based and Similar Projects			
	Total 600			\$3,000.00
800	810 Dues and Fees			
	890 Other Miscellaneous			
	800 Other			
	Total 800			
Subtotal 100 - 600 & 800				

** Approved Indirect Cost Rate : 0.00%				
700	730 Equipment: over \$5,000 each			
	700 Other			
	Total 700			
TOTAL				\$86,767.12

Signature: _____

Signature of Authorized Representative

Date

12/18/15

* All Items of Value must be itemized on the Budget Detail.

** Indirect Cost Rates must be approved by the Dept. of Education before the subgrantee may budget for and charge those costs to the grant.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
USE ONLY

Initials

Date
Approved

SB 515, Section 23

Budget Narrative

Object Code	Title of Position or Description of Item	FTE	Quantity	Unit Amount/ Calculations	Total Amount	Budget Summary Object Total
100	PERSONNEL: Licensed Mental Health Professional		2	\$56,803.50 X 2/ half year	\$56,803.50	
	NARRATIVE: Based upon a full year of service, positions are based on Master's plus 5 years' experience. This would provide a base salary of \$53,845. In addition, 10 additional days is proposed. This provides a total salary of 56,803.50 calculated as 192 days X 7 hours X \$42.26. Given application time lines, total cost is projected at half of full year implementation. 2016-2017 budget requirements will require full commitment.					
	TOTAL				\$56,803.50	\$56,803.50
200	BENEFITS: Licensed Mental Health Professional	31%		\$17,609.10	\$24,963.62	
	NARRATIVE: Standard fringe benefits rates are based on PERS at 28%, Worker's Comp at 1.5%, FICA at 6.2% and Medicare at 1.45%. Insurance is calculated at 643.52 X 6 months (for remainder of 2015-2016)					
	TOTAL				\$ 24,963.62	\$ 24,963.62
300	PURCHASED PROF. SERVICES:					

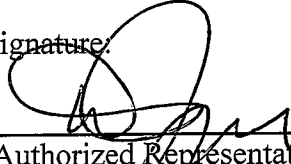
	NARRATIVE:					
				TOTAL		
400	PURCHASED PROP. SERVICES:					
Other	Insert Object & Description					
	NARRATIVE:					
				TOTAL	\$ -	\$ -
500	OTHER PURCHASED SERVICES:					
580	Travel – Professional Development Workshop, hotel, per diem		2	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
	NARRATIVE: 580 – Professional development as prescribed by the Nevada Department of Education and individual needs are included at an anticipated cost of \$1,000 per mental health professional.					\$ 2,000.00
				TOTAL		
600	SUPPLIES:					
610	General Supplies		2	2 X \$500	\$1,000.00	

						\$ 1,000.00
652	Computers		2	\$1,000	\$2,000	
						\$2,000.00
	NARRATIVE: Funds are included for the purchase of 2 computers to support case notes and reporting requirements. In addition, basic general supplies in support of the position is included at \$500 per person.					
				TOTAL	\$ -	
800	OTHER OBJECTS:					
810	Dues & Fees					\$ -
	NARRATIVE:					
				TOTAL	\$ -	
Subtotal Objects 100 - 600 & 800					\$ 86,767.12	
Approved Indirect Cost Rate: x Subtotal Above					\$ -	
700	EQUIPMENT:					
730	Capital Equipment > \$5,000					
730	Capital Computer > \$5,000					\$ -
700 Other	Other > \$5,000					\$ -
	NARRATIVE:					
				TOTAL	\$ -	
GRANT TOTAL					\$86,767.12	\$86,767.12

SECTION IV ASSURANCES

The undersigned provides the following assurances:

1. Through training, professional development and collaboration – all Social Workers and Mental Health Professionals are subject to abiding by the theory of action and mission statement of the Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment.
2. The funding will be utilized to fund the mental health professional. The funds will not be used for any other purpose.
3. The schools and districts funded will administer that Nevada School Climate/Social and Emotional Learning Survey in the spring annually.
4. The district will submit data as requested for the required annual report.
5. If it is determined that a school or district is not implementing the programs or services for which it received money, or does not meet performance levels, a plan of corrective action will be developed and implanted that results in meeting the requirements and/or performance levels.
6. Any remaining balance of funds will not be committed for expenditure after June 30, 2016, and will be reverted to the State General Fund after all payments of money committed have been made.
7. Districts will submit an annual Financial Report.

Signature: 


Authorized Representative



Print Name Here



Date



Organization